



## Emma (Ocie) Taylor Songer Collection

1880-1979

111 textual records, 26 photographs, 2 oral history interviews, 6 books, 7 artifacts, 2 Albums  
 2 boxes / 1 linear foot

The Emma (known as Ocie) Taylor Songer Collection provides the researcher with a personal view of early Corona history. Emma Josephine “Ocie” Taylor Songer was the daughter of Corona founder Robert B. Taylor and Emma Mason Taylor. Born on July 5, 1877 in Indiana, Ocie was the youngest of three children: James DuVergne Taylor, better known as Verne (b. 4/18/1875, d. 10/4/1919), and Harry Garfield Taylor (b. 6/7/1881, d. 11/11/1903). The Taylor family moved to Anaheim, California in January of 1886 and within a month, R.B. Taylor joined with several others to purchase desert land, first known as “South Riverside” and eventually known as “Corona.” Ocie married Clark E. Songer, a local barber, and had one daughter, Lucille Songer Brown (b.8/1/1911 d. 11/28/1982). She died in 1971 in Villa Park, California.

Collection consists of manuscripts, artifacts, pamphlets, photographs, mementos, souvenirs, reel to reel tapes, a copy of the South Riverside Bee newspaper, and a family scrapbook. The items date from the 1880s to 1979 and present the researcher with a personal view of early Corona history. For best results, this collection should be used in conjunction with the Robert B. Taylor Manuscript Collection (M002). Information on Emma Ocie Taylor and family are contained therein. Some of the items in the collection have been photographed or scanned and are available to view via the Corona Public Library website in our online digital database, *Corona Heritage Online*.

**Location:** A1 & A21

W.D. Addison Heritage Room, 650 S. Main Street, Corona, CA 92882, (951) 279-3593

**Hours:** Monday & Tuesday 3 pm to 7 pm, Wednesday by appointment only, Thursday 10 am to 1 pm, Friday - Sunday Closed.

**Gifts of** Howard and Irene Ware, Levora Raney Smith

**Inventory:**

Call Number	Folder	Description of Records	Leaves
M001/1	1	Finding Aids & Accession Records	20
<b>Series 1 R.B. Taylor, Founder of Corona, Father of Ocie Taylor</b>			
M001/1	2	1892 Diary of R.B. Taylor’s trip to Mojave Desert Mines	1 book
M001/1	3	Brief family genealogical information: Ancestry chart for RB Taylor, Emma Mason Taylor and Emma Taylor Songer (Ocie). Compiled by Heritage Room Staff. <i>To view the census records used in ancestry chart research and individual Logs for the 7 Songer-Taylor Photo Albums, see Robert B. Taylor’s Collection (M002)</i>	1

<b>Series 2</b>		<b>Early Corona History (Known as South Riverside)</b>	
M001/1	4	Pamphlets: a) Corona High School Commencement, June 12, 1919 b) The Golden Circle c) June 1919 pamphlet celebrating Corona Knights of Pythias (Ocie Taylor's husband Claude Songer was an active member).	3 pamphlets
M001/1	5	Newspaper: <i>South Riverside Bee</i> for Saturday March 5, 1892.	8
M001/1	7	Two autograph books from 1886-1896, one with a blue velour cover and the other with a burgundy velour cover. Autographs are from local South Riverside Citizens.	2 books
M001/1	8	Notes on Early Corona: a) Typed by Ms. Ocie Songer, June 1969 (updated to 1970) on Corona's first buildings. b) "Lands & Money." Three page description of the laying out and establishment of Corona. c) Handwritten note on Mr. L.M. Holt's support for the new town. d) "Cemetery" – One page on the early cemetery, Dr. Gleason and Citizens Bank. e) "Concerning Lemons" – A two page parable f) Letterhead logo for Citizens Bank, South Riverside, Ca 1888 g) Typed note on James Taylor Sr., father of R.B, Taylor h) Handwritten "Reminiscences of Early Corona" by C.T. Songer 1965 i) Typed "Reminiscences of Early Corona" by C.T. Songer 1965	38
M001/1	9	Skyline Drive: Eight page proposal to stock holders on the possible development of Skyline Drive into a summer and winter resort by the Skyline Park Company, 1927. The proposal includes a blueprint and an Engineer's Report by W.E. Bryant, Engineer.	8
<b>Series 3</b>		<b>Special Events</b>	
M001/1	10	Special Events: a) Information on the July 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1892 celebration in South Riverside. b) Memorabilia (menu, bookmark) from Tenth Anniversary Celebration of Corona at the Hotel Temescal, 1897.	6
<b>Series 4</b>		<b>Correspondence</b>	
M001/1	11	Correspondence: a) Letter in English and Greek from Vernie Taylor to his sister, Ocie, June 2, 1891. b) Letter dated April 13, 1902 from San Francisco, Cal. The letter is from Harry Taylor to his sister, Ocie, and his mother, Emma. Enclosed in the letter's envelope is short note written in Greek. c) Signed note and invitation from Glenn H. Joseph to Mrs. Songer for a Corona Rotary Club Anniversary Party on January 26, 1940. d) Card and envelope from Catherine Wilson to Mrs. Songer on Corona History. Includes personal greetings and information on mutual friends. Dated May 11, 1969. e) Letter from Ocie Songer to Jerry Holtman, on local newspaper clipping, March 14, 1961. Two clippings and one typed letter describing clippings.	4 envelopes, 13 leaves

		f) Letter from Ocie Songer to Harriette Williams expressing sorrow on recent death of Janet W. Gould.	
		g) Two letters and envelopes from Ocie Songer to Catherine Wilson expressing loneliness and desire to visit Corona. August 4, 1969 and August 28, 1969.	
<b>Series 5</b>			
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
M001/1	12	Miscellaneous Documents:	10 leaves, 2 books
		a) Memorial card in memory of Emma J. Songer, Feb 24, 1971.	
		b) Note card and newspaper clipping in memory of Mrs. Clara Todd of Los Angeles, September 2, 1941.	
		c) Pocket San Francisco guide and map book, March 13, 1899.	
		d) "Through all the Years" mimeographed poems by James W. Foley.	
		e) "Woman's Love" poem	
		f) Sewing Society Needle Book (empty)	
		g) Three ink blotters bearing advertisement for the Mexican Amole Soap Company.	
		h) Newspaper article on Ocie Songer as the "Only Survivor of Founding Family." April 19, 1942.	
<b>Series 6</b>			
<b>Personal Documents</b>			
M001/1	13	Diary of Ocie Taylor for 1889. She was 11 ½ when the diary began. Included are her observations on the weather, her activities, and friends. Also included are tables and statistics on a variety of subjects.	1 book
M001/1	14	Calling cards of Mrs. R.B. Taylor	4
M001/1	15	School records for Lucille Songer for the Los Angeles City School District. Includes:	5
		a) Admission, Discharge, and Promotion Card from August 30, 1920 through September 6, 1922	
		b) Health and Development Card from January 1921 (Lucille would have been 9 ½ years old)	
		c) Report cards from John Muir Jr. High from 1923-1925.	
M001/1	16	Documents:	3
		a) Letter to Ocie from "George" dated October 19, 1955. Discusses early days in Temescal Canyon. A few lines at the top were cut.	
		b) I.O.O.F. visiting card for Orlando Songer from Oneida, Kansas, dated July 21, 1890.	
		c) Receipt for 121 ft. curling @ \$1.50/ft., abase, and for markers @ \$18.00 each, written on Hotel Temescal stationery, dated April 1, 1897.	
M001/1	17	Documents:	2 leaves, 1 envelope
		a) Receipt from Riverside Monumental Co. to Mrs. C.E. Songer, June 1, 1921.	
		b) Deed from Corona Cemetery Association to Lucille Songer Brown, dated January 16, 1969 for endowment care plots 62, and 63 in block 36. Envelope reads "Deeds of Cemetery Lots at Corona – Lots 84 & 85. Put in Safety Box."	
M001/1	18	Documents:	6
		a) Consent to transfer. Transferring stock from Olin Louis Brown estate to Irvin Isom, January 24, 1971.	

		b) Deed from South Riverside Cemetery Association to R.B. Taylor, dated January 23, 1893, for lot #84.	
		c) Deed from South Riverside Cemetery Association to R.B. Taylor dated February 4, 1896, for lot #85.	
		d) Contract between R.B. Taylor and Riverside Granite and Marble Company for work on family plot at Sunnyslope, dated December 19, 1896.	
M001/1	19	Documents: a) A typed letter and envelope from U.S. Vice-President Thomas R. Marshall to R.B. Taylor dated December 22, 1913.	1 leaf, 1 envelope
M001/1	20	Documents: a) Ribbon 4 ¼" x 8 ½" printed with banquet and menu for August 5, 1897. b) 4 banquet ribbons 2" x 7 ½" – Favors from Tenth Anniversary Banquet. Note: Items also contained in COLL #2 Box1, Folder 11: and in Coll #4, Box 1, Folder 1. One pin used to pin the ribbons.	6 artifacts
<b>Series 7 Photo Albums &amp; Scrapbooks</b>			
M001/1	6	Photo Album and Scrapbook <b>Album 007</b> Scrapbook: Compiled by Ocie Songer from newspaper clippings which cover births, deaths, marriages, social items and early corona events. Special items include the 1897 celebration of South Riverside's 10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday and the Temescal Hotel fire of November 23, 1899. <i>Descriptive logs for this album are located in the Robert B. Taylor Manuscript Collection M002 in Folder 30.</i>	1 book
M001/2	Flat Box	<b>Album 006 (was HR 997.02 SON)</b> Brown leather photo album labeled "Porte Feuille." Contains large 8x10 shots of early Corona scenes, many of which are not part of the Heritage Room photo collection. <i>Descriptive logs for this album are located in the Robert B. Taylor Manuscript Collection M002 in Folder 30.</i>	1 book



**Emma (Ocie) Taylor Songer Collection**

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**Item List of Relocated Oral History Interviews, Artifacts & Photographs**

Location	Resource ID	Description	Item Type
Photograph Drawer	PER-AAA-444	Esther Songer, daughter of Claude Songer, with friends, 13 girls and 1 boy. In front of house circa 1920.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	PER-AAA-446	3 women and 1 man in car. L-R: unknown, Pearl Wall, unknown, Evelyn Songer, and Orlando "Lan" Songer. Circa 1915.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	PER-AAA-447	"The Clan" 1908. 7 young women in a studio shot. Back row L-R: Frances Songer, unknown, Belle Randall, Kate Wallace. Front row L-R: unknown, Ocie Taylor, Grace Shepard.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	PER-AAA-448	1918 photo. Back on left is Ralph Wall and right is Fred Wall. The girls are left, Lucille Songer, right Levora Raney. Lucille and Levora were 7 years old.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	PER-AAA-449	1914. Lucille and Emma Josephine Taylor Songer in front of home at 714 Washburn.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	SCH-Hig I-056	1910. Corona Senior High School graduating class (13 members) and faculty.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	HIG-CIT-089	1888. Corona as seen from Victoria and Eighth Streets looking north. Indicated on the photograph are the Taylor and Dr. McCarthy homes as well as the Congregational Church.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	ATH-AAA-005	c. 1915. Football team, possibly at City Park.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	BUI-Res-153	Mrs. Joe Songer, mother of Orlando, sitting on porch of Mr. & Mrs. Orlando Songer's home at 810 Belle. The porch seen in the left background is that of the Raney family home.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	BUS-Aut-009	c. 1920. Queen Colony Garage showing directional signs placed by the Automobile Club of Southern California. Two young men and a man in a car. The young man nearest the sign post is Frank Raney, brother of Letha Raney.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran-026	c. 1911. Horses and barn at Immergrun Ranch. The ranch was owned by Myron & Johnson. Levora Raney was born on the ranch. The ranch was in the area now behind Prado Dam. The photo is mounted with AGR-RAN-027a, AGR-Ran-028a, and AGR-Ran-029a on an album page.	PHOTO

Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran-027	c. 1911. Two men holding a section of water pipe on the Immergrun Ranch. The photo is mounted on an album page with AGR-RAN-026A, AGR-RAN-028, and AGR-RAN-029A.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran-028	c. 1911. View of Immergrun lands. The photo is mounted on an album page with, AGR-RAN-026A; AGR-RAN-027A and AGR-RAN-029A.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran-029	c. 1911. Haying with horses on Immergrun Ranch. The photo is mounted on an album page with AGR-RAN-026, AGR-RAN-027, and AGR-RAN-028	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran	Old man standing in a yard. Mounted and stored with previous four photos in AGR-Ran.	PHOTO (Cyanotype)
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran	Three women. Stored and mounted in AGR-Ran	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran	Ship at Doc	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran	Man and Woman (unknown)	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran	Small Girl (unknown)	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran	Young Women (unknown)	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran	Young Man (unknown)	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	AGR-Ran	Man and woman in Riverside (unknown)	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	SCH-Ear-010b	1912. Rincon School interior probably near Thanksgiving time.	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	SCH-Ear-009	1913. Rincon School	PHOTO
Photograph Drawer	SCH-Ear-008	Pre 1900. Rincon School	PHOTO
Oral History Collection	FILM Shelves	Mrs. Ocie Taylor Songer in 1969 and 1970.	REEL TO REEL
Oral History Collection	C-083	Mrs. Ocie Taylor Songer. Manuscript notes in envelope.	CASSETTE TAPE
Mapcase	A-5-1-5	Marriage license for Clark E. Songer and Emma "Ocie" Taylor dated February 3, 1908.	OVERSIZE DOCUMENT